

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 054778
ORIGIN EB-08

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DRAFTED BY EB/TRA:JRATWOOD:BD
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EUR/NE:DGOODMAN (SUB)
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 054778

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BRANIFF AIR FARES

1. AT PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY, FOLLOWING QUESTIONED ANSWER WERE SUBMITTED. TEXT IS UNOFFICIAL AND TAKEN FROM NEW YORK TIMES.
2. "QUESTION 8. MR. PRESIDENT, WE HAVE SEVERAL QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE BRANIFF AIRWAYS LOW-COST SERVICE BETWEEN DALLAS AND LONDON. ONE IS FROM ROSS MARKS OF THE DAILY EXPRESS OF LONDON AND ANOTHER FROM ROY BODE OF THE DALLAS TIMES-HERALD. FIRST OF ALL, HAVE YOU RECEIVED A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CAB FOR RETALIATORY ACTION, AND DO YOU PLAN TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AGAINST A BRITISH CARRIER? AND, SECONDLY, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS ABIDING BY ITS COMMITMENTS IN THE BERMUDA II AIRLINE AGREEMENTS?

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3. "ANSWER. I HAVE NOT RECEIVED A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CAB AT THIS MOMENT. WHEN THE RECOMMENDATION GETS TO ME I WILL, BY LAW, HAVE TO ACT AND WILL ACT IMMEDIATELY.
4. "I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE ISSUE, THE DETAILS OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT RULING, TO KNOW WHETHER OR NOT

THEY'VE VIOLATED THE AGREEMENT THAT WAS CONCLUDED THIS PAST YEAR. MY GUESS IS, KNOWING THE BRITISH, THAT THEY HAVE NOT VIOLATED THE AGREEMENT SPECIFICALLY. BUT, AS YOU KNOW, AN AGREEMENT CAN'T BE THAT DETAILED TO ANTICIPATE EVERY INDIVIDUAL RULING THAT WILL BE CONCLUDED BY THE CAB ON OUR SIDE, OR ITS EQUIVALENT AGENCY ON THE BRITISH SIDE.

5. "I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE ISSUE YET, BUT IF THERE IS A VIOLATION WE WOULD EXPRESS OUR CONCERN DIRECTLY TO PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN, AND WHEN THE CAB GIVES ME A REPORT AND A RECOMMENDATION THE CHANCES ARE THAT I WOULD HONOR IT. WE HAVE HAD NOTABLE SUCCESS IN 1977 IN INCREASING COMPETITION, PARTICULARLY IN INTERNATIONAL ROUTES FOR AIR CARRIERS. WE HAVE ENCOURAGED THE ADDITIONAL COMPETITION OF AMERICAN AIRLINES IN THIS AREA AS WELL.

6. "WE HOPE TO GET THE CONGRESS TO ACT ON SUBSTANTIAL DEREGULATION IN THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY WITHIN OUR COUNTRY; I BELIEVE WE HAVE MADE NOTABLE SUCCESS ALREADY. AND WE HAVE WITHSTOOD TREMENDOUS PRESSURE FROM THE BRITISH TO HAVE MORE GOVERNMENT PROTECTION, WHICH WOULD BE CONTRARY TO COMPETITION, IN THE AGREEMENT THAT WE REACHED LAST YEAR." CHRISTOPHER

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